

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1- 22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) Recognition unit comprising a processor for executing instructions for recognizing audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users ~~and control information~~, said recognition unit comprising:

a reception module and a recording module for recording in a storage space, recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

a reception module for receiving via a broadcasting network, at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

a detection module for detecting said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, by means of said recognition elements stored in said storage space, by recognition in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme received, of said extracted audiovisual portion,

and a transmission module for transmitting action instructions in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme, said instructions being designed so as to trigger at least one action,

wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive among said recognition elements, instructions for extracting said extracted audiovisual portion from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the stream reception module, said audiovisual portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received, and in that said recording module is designed to directly extract said audiovisual portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record the said audiovisual portion in the storage space.

24. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the module ~~(21, 24)~~ for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive a triggering message and in that the recording module is designed to extract and record upon receipt of said triggering message, said audiovisual portion of said previously received stream.

25. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is also designed to receive among said recognition elements, at least one identifier of said extracted audiovisual portion, and in that said detection module is capable of retrieving from the storage space said previously recorded extracted audiovisual portion associated with said identifier, so as to recognize in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme received said extracted audiovisual portion.

26. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is also designed to receive directly the said extracted audiovisual portion among the said recognition elements and the

recording module is designed to record the said extracted audiovisual portion in the storage space.

27. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the recognition unit also comprises a timeout module before dispatch of said action instructions by the transmission module.

28. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the modules for receiving and for recording recognition elements and the module for transmitting action instructions are designed to respectively receive, record and transmit identifiers relating to the said actions to be triggered.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein said recognition elements include at least one Boolean operator, said detection module being designed to detect at least two of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content in conjunction with said Boolean operator and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

31. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein said recognition elements include at least one time information item, said detection module being designed to detect said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content in conjunction with said time information item and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

32. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 31, wherein said time information item comprises at least one information item chosen from among a date of detection and a detection time slot.

33. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein said recognition elements include at least one channel reference, said detection module being designed to detect said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content in conjunction with said channel reference and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in the case of said detection.

34. (Currently amended) Specification unit comprising a processor for executing instructions for specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users ~~and control information~~, and said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network and thus to trigger at least one action,

wherein said specification unit comprises:

a preparation module for preparing recognition elements making it possible to obtain said at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

and a transmission module for transmitting said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, to at least one recognition unit intended to detect said synchronization signals in said transmitted

stream carrying said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme,

and wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit extraction instructions, in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, for extracting said audiovisual portion of audiovisual content, said audiovisual portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received.

35. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 34, wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit identifiers relating to said actions to be triggered in case of detection of said synchronization signals.

36. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 35, wherein said action identifiers relate to at least one of the following actions: transmission of an interactive service, triggering of an interactive service, triggering of an update of an interactive service, triggering of a recording of said audiovisual programme and connection to a website.

37. (Currently amended) Synchronization system including a processor for executing instructions comprising:

a specification unit for specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual

programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users ~~and control information~~,

a recognition unit for recognizing said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network, by recognition of at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, in the audiovisual programme received,

and an activation unit designed to trigger at least one action in the case of detection of said synchronization signals by the recognition unit, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, said detection being done through recognition in said at least one audiovisual programme received of said at least one extracted audiovisual portion,

wherein the specification unit is designed to prepare and transmit to the recognition unit recognition elements making it possible to obtain said extracted audiovisual portion and comprising instructions for extracting said audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, said audiovisual portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received, and in that the recognition unit is designed to directly extract said audiovisual portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record said audiovisual portion.

38. (Previously presented) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a specification unit in accordance with Claim 34.

39. (Previously presented) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a recognition unit in accordance with Claim 23.

40. (Previously presented) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with Claim 37.

41. (Previously presented) Services operator, wherein it comprises a specification unit in accordance with Claim 34.

42. (Previously presented) Services operator, wherein it comprises a recognition unit in accordance with Claim 23.

43. (Previously presented) Services operator, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with Claim 37.

44. (Previously presented) Terminal, wherein it comprises a specification unit in accordance with Claim 34.

45. (Previously presented) Terminal, wherein it comprises a recognition unit in accordance with Claim 23.

46. (Previously presented) Terminal, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with Claim 37.

47. (Currently amended) Process, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, for activation by recognition of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio

and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, said process comprising the following steps:

reception via a broadcasting network, of at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion, in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of the said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme,

wherein said recognition elements including instructions for extracting said extracted audiovisual portion from at least one stream of a previously received audiovisual programme, by extracting said audiovisual portion from said audiovisual programme previously received, said audiovisual portion of said previously received stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said audiovisual portion is recorded in the storage space,

said process of activation being implemented by means of a recognition unit and an activation unit.

48. (Currently amended) Specification process, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, of specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions

serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, and said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network and thus to trigger at least one action,

wherein said specification process comprises the following steps:

preparation of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

transmission of said information independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying the said audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and transmission of extraction instructions, in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, for extracting said audiovisual portion of audiovisual content, by extracting said audiovisual portion from said audiovisual programme previously received,

said specification process being implemented by means of a specification unit.

49. (Currently amended) Synchronization process, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, comprising the following steps:

a step of specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users ~~and control information~~, in which step recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme are specified for said detection, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

a step of detecting said synchronization signals in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network, in which step said synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognizing said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and a step of triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

wherein said recognition elements comprising instructions for extracting said audiovisual portion of audiovisual content from at least one stream of an

audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, by extracting said audiovisual portion from said audiovisual programme previously received, are prepared and transmitted to the recognition unit, and wherein said audiovisual portion of said stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said audiovisual portion is recorded,

said synchronization process being implemented by a synchronization system.

50. (Currently amended) A computer readable non-transitory storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

receiving via a broadcasting network, of at least one transmitted stream carrying an audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~,

detection of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said detection being done by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion, in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of the said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme,

wherein said recognition elements including instructions for extracting said extracted audiovisual portion from at least one stream of a previously received audiovisual programme, by extracting said audiovisual portion from said audiovisual programme previously received, said audiovisual portion of said previously received stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said audiovisual portion is recorded in the storage space.

51. (Currently amended) A computer readable non-transitory storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

preparation of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of audiovisual content of an audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users ~~and control information~~, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

transmission of said information independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and transmission of extraction instructions, in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting for extracting said audiovisual portion of audiovisual content, by extracting said audiovisual portion from said audiovisual programme previously received.

52. (Currently amended) A computer readable non-transitory storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

a step of specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said portions serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users ~~and control information~~, in which step recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme are specified for detection, said recognition elements including audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, or instructions for extracting audiovisual portions of audiovisual content from at least one audiovisual programme transmitted previously, or identifiers of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

a step of detecting said synchronization signals in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network, in which synchronization step said synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognizing said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and a step of triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

wherein said recognition elements comprising instructions for extracting said audiovisual portion of audiovisual content from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, by extracting said audiovisual portion from said programme previously received, are prepared and transmitted to the recognition unit, and wherein said audiovisual portion of said stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said audiovisual portion is recorded.